

Good morning,

We appreciate the revisions to the first proposed plan that eliminated the apartment building but there is more that needs to be considered.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Climate change is no longer something that is happening elsewhere in the world or something we have to worry about in the distance future. It is knocking on our back door. In the week before Canada Day over 700 people in BC died in Western Canada's record breaking heat wave. That is triple the number that would normally happen. Parts of our country are in drought and fires while other parts are being overwhelm with heavy downpours that existing infrastructure was not built to handle.

In the same period, 10 people in the province died from COVID-19. Fewer people are being lost to COVID because we listened to scientists. We need to treat the climate crisis with the same level of determination as we have the pandemic.

If the past week has taught us nothing else, climate change is a public health emergency as while as environmental. Mark Carney the former governor of the Bank of Canada has also raised the alarm bells that we need to take action or there will be an economic crisis as well as more deaths. He told the BBC that while there were parallels between the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change, damage to the environment and ecosystems has the potential to cause many more deaths. "One of the biggest issues is you cannot self-isolate from climate," he said. "That is not an option. We cannot retreat in and wait out climate change, it will just get worse,"

So how does this all relate to development? We must all do what we can to reduce the effect of climate change. One of the cheapest ways to reduce the impact of climate change is trees. This means protecting the existing trees as well as planting more trees. We need to keep green spaces that can absorb the heavy rain falls. Trees and green spaces can help to cool the atmosphere.

So how does this all relate to the Forbes development? The people of Hespeler fought hard to protect the green space in the previous Mattamy development. This must be respected. The people who live on Shaw and Henry Villa Drive strongly feel that the proposed exist onto Shaw Avenue should not be implemented and as much of the green space and trees in that area protected.

The Forbes property was home to a variety of wildlife. The Mattamy subdivision pushed the wildlife into the 155 & 171 Guelph Avenue property and into our own properties. Over the winter a deer regularly slept in my backyard. Raccoons are seen going through garbage looking for food. Wildlife needs its own space. The previous development upset the ecological balance. We are over run by rabbits and squirrels that previously coyotes and foxes kept in check. Development must also give consideration to where wildlife can live. So the proposed development should minimize the impact on the existing green space.

The question becomes what kind of city do you want to leave for the future generations? Do we want future generations to say scientists warned them about climate change but they did not listen and take action and now we are paying the price? Do we want to pave over as much of our city as we can or do we want to leave trees and green space for your grandchildren and great grandchildren to enjoy. We will all pay the price if we continue on the current path and do not make changes.

I hope that you give this serious consideration not only for the development at 155 & 171 Guelph Avenue but also for other developments in our city.

Barbara Maier